

**Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate
Achievement Program
(CFDA No. 84.217)**

I. Legislation

Higher Education Act (HEA) of 1965, Title IV, Part A, Subpart 2, Chapter 1, Section 402E (20 U.S.C. 1070a-11 and 1070a-15) (expires September 30, 1997).

II. Funding History

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Appropriation 1/</u>
1989	\$1,482,000
1990	3,000,000
1991	4,944,000
1992	576,000
1993	9,598,000
1994	11,900,000
1995	19,082,217
1996	19,816,607

1/ The appropriations represent the amount allocated administratively by the Department of Education from funds appropriated jointly for all six federal TRIO programs: Upward Bound, Talent Search, Educational Opportunity Centers, Student Support Services, Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement Program, and the Training Program for Special Programs Staff and Leadership Personnel.

III. Analysis of Program Performance

A. Goals and Objectives

The goal of the McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement Program is to improve the rates of access and participation in doctoral programs by providing assistance to low-income, first-generation college students, or students from groups that are underrepresented in graduate education. The program primarily provides funding for nonfinancial services and stipends that students may need in order to engage in research opportunities and enter graduate programs that lead to a Ph.D. These activities are intended to encourage the educational advancement of disadvantaged students by providing effective preparation for doctoral study.

B. Strategies to Achieve the Goals

Services Supported

The 99 projects currently funded under the McNair program provide a range of support services such as opportunities for research, summer internships, tutorial services, academic counseling, seminars, assistance in obtaining student financial aid, assistance in securing admission for enrollment in graduate programs, mentoring, and participation in cultural events. Students may also receive stipends of up to \$2,400 a year if they have completed their sophomore year and are engaged in research. Program

participation is limited to low-income, first-generation college students, or students from groups that are underrepresented in graduate education. In any given project, two-thirds of the participants must be both low-income and first-generation college students. Participants must be enrolled in an undergraduate program at an eligible institution of higher education. In FY 1995, the Department selected institutions representing 37 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. Competitions for funding are held every four years, with the next cycle occurring in FY 1999. Grant applicants that have conducted a McNair project during the three years preceding the competition receive “prior experience” points.

McNair Program FY 1996

Number of new projects	0
Number of continuation projects	99
Average award	\$200,000
Number of persons served	2,475
Average federal cost per participant	\$7,897

Strategic Initiatives

Redesigned performance reports will better measure the success of funded projects in meeting the goals of the McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement Program. The Department will use the data to give grantees better feedback on project and student performance that may be used to improve program quality and effectiveness. Data obtained from performance reports will provide baseline information on student success rates that can be compared with national data on low-income, first-generation college students.

C. Program Performance—Indicators of Impact and Effectiveness

Please see the TRIO Program Performance Measures displayed in Chapter 508. See also Office-Wide Performance Indicators for the Office of Postsecondary Education displayed in the Overview (OPS) to the postsecondary education programs.

The McNair performance report will collect data on individual students and will follow current and former McNair participants through completion of undergraduate studies and enrollment in and completion of graduate programs. Data on individual participants will be collected beginning late 1997. Completion rates for the 1989-90 cohort will be available March 2001. These are the first McNair participants tracked 10 years after program entry.

IV. Planned Studies

None.

V. Sources of Information

Program files.

VI. Contacts for Further Information

Program Operations: Frances Bergeron, (202) 708-4804

Program Studies: Michael Fong, (202) 401-7462